

Miss O'Connell

JUL 29 1922

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*Three of us*  
~~BETWEEN THE WORLDS~~

*Bordenland*

Adaptation by Beulah Marie Dix

Directed by Paul Powell

A poor soul that on earth bore the name of Dora Basket is wandering thru space, looking for her child that was lost. After a weary long time she comes to the Well at the World's End, and the Angel at the Well bids her look down it.

The soul looks down upon earth, and there, in a pleasant modern city house, she sees a young wife, named Edith Wayne, who is kin to her by blood.

Edith is pretty, and young, and rich, and spoiled. Her husband is immersed in his business, so she thinks herself neglected and unappreciated. Her boy, Jimmy, is a real little boy, rough and unruly, so she thinks he is a tiresome child and really doesn't love him. For appreciation and love she turns to her husband's cousin, Clyde Meredith. They are both foolish and romantic, and they begin to play at the perilous game of love.

The soul that watches by the Well at the World's End cries out that Edith must not go the path she herself went - she will go and warn her! The Angel at the Well tells her that she can only reach Edith by passing thru storm and flame. The soul says she will suffer even that for the sake of warning this other woman.

So the poor soul goes thru icy storm and burning fire to bring help to Edith, and meantime Edith, on earth, is going

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her foolish way. She places her little boy in a boarding school, to be out of her way, and she leaves her husband's house, for a little visit, as she tells him, to the old place, Beekets' Point that has always been in her family.

In reality Edith plans to have Meredith meet her at Beekets' Point, and then they will go away together to the other side of the world. Her plans work out to perfection. She motors out to Beekets. Meredith joins her that evening. They dine together before motoring to the boat. In the drawing room where they take their coffee by the fire is a portrait of a beautiful young woman, very like Edith, in the dress of 1850. That, Edith tells Meredith is her great-granddaughter, Dora Becket, who was "drowned or something seventy years ago."

It is then that the wandering soul of Dora, that has gone thru ice and flame to save Edith, comes drifting into the house that was once her home, and no one sees her coming but the dog that howls for terror. The poor soul tries to speak to Edith, but Edith is dancing to jazz music with Meredith, to pass the time before they drive to the boat, and she does not see or hear her.

Then the poor soul drifts downstairs to the rooms of the care-taker, Nora Conlan, but neither Nora nor her children know that she is come among them.

Near by the fire sits Nora's grandmother, old Eileen, seventy years in service at Beekets, so old now that she is blind and deaf and paralysed, helpless in her chair, no more



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than breathing flesh. But this old woman is so near the border-land that she can hear the poor soul speak, and the poor soul bids her go to Edith and tell her the story of Dora Becket.

This old Eileen that has not moved in years lifts her head slowly and life comes into her glazed eyes. She rises from her chair. It is as if the dead should rise and walk. Nora and her children cry out and cross themselves as the old woman, not looking at them, passes out of the room.

Edith has left Meredith in the drawing room and run up to her chamber, to change into her motor clothes for the journey. She has just changed when old Eileen comes walking into the room. Edith cries out in fright. Eileen bids her listen to the story of a foolish sinful woman like herself, who lived in this same house, seventy years ago.

This is the story that old Eileen tells Edith, who covers before her.

Dora Becket was sweet and young and pretty, and her husband was harsh and old and unkind. They had one little girl, Totty, a mischievous child, for whose pranks her mother was often chidden and Totty had a clumsy dog, Bessie, who was always sneaking into the house, with muddy paws, and being driven out.

One day there came to the house the husband's half-brother, a sea-rover and adventurer, Captain Francis Vincent. His ship was moored in the bay below the rocks of Becket's Point. He himself lingered at the house. He loved beautiful Dora, and she, knowing kindness for the first time, loved him

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in return. They planned to flee away together in his ship. She wished to take her little girl with her, but he told her truly that they had no right to subject the child to the scorn that must follow them, as love's outcasts. She would be safer, if not happier, with her father.

The harsh old husband went away on a two days' journey. They should flee that night at the turn of the tide. She bade her servants, lest they spy upon her, to go to a barn dance, but she made them promise to be home in good season, so that her child might not be long alone. She packed hastily for her journey, but in the midst of the packing, the child, that she had left safe abed, came running in upon her, unruly and eager to play. She heard Vincent's whistle, where he waited for her in the garden. She put Totty back into bed, kissed her, and then for fear that she would get up and follow, she locked the door upon her. Then she went out to join her lover, but as she went out the old dog, Bose, slipped in, and pattered up-stairs, and lay down outside Totty's door.

Dora went with Vincent aboard his ship. And the servants at the barn dance jigged and shouted. And in the kitchen of the old house a pipe was smoldering in the pocket of the jacket that the man of all work had left hanging when he dressed to go to the dance. Presently the kitchen was ablaze. The smoke swept thru the house, and the flames behind it. Bose barked and howled but would not leave his post. Totty waked and cried for her mother. The dog tried to scratch his way under the door and get her. He only ceased when the strangling smoke silenced him forever.



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In her white gown, ready for the night in her little cabin, Dora looked thru the porthole and far off on the hill saw her house ablaze. She rushed on deck, where Vincent and his men were making sail to go out with the tide. She pointed in terror to the blazing house. Vincent reassured her: the child will run out of the house. "I locked her in!" wailed Dora. She rushed to the stern of the ship where the tender was moored. She thought madly that she could row ashore and reach her child in time to save her. She leaped for the tender but she miscalculated her distance. She balanced for an instant on the gunwale, then fell backward into the racing tide. Vincent sprang into the water after her, but she was swept away. His men at last dragged him back aboard the ship, struggling and weeping for his lost love, and meantime Dora's drowned body went out into the ocean borne on the rushing tide.

The smoke rolled thick into the little girl's chamber but the flames did not reach her for, for while they were seeping under the door, there came a great Angel of Help and lifted her in his arms and carried her safe away.

That is old Eileen's story of Dora Bicket, and when she has ended, Edith springs to her feet and rushes out of the house, with just one thought, to get to the little boy that she was leaving behind her before anything - she does not know what - can happen to him.

Nora comes in and finds the old Eileen dead in her chair - mercifully released from the flesh that so long has prisoned her. And the soul that was Dora, coming again to the

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Well at the World's End, how, she does not know, looks down and sees Edith thrust aside her lover and drive off madly to her child. The Angel says to Dora that she has won the right now to seek her little girl thru other realms, and Dora finds herself transported to a place where there are trees and grass and dim light and a brook which she starts to follow upward to its source.

So Dora wanders, seeking still for her lost child - and Edith drives at full speed thru the night - and Edith's husband, lonely for his wife and child, is also driving toward the school to see his boy for a moment. The little boy, meantime has dreamed of climbing high up on the perilous scaffold that surrounds the new gymnasium, a place where the younger boys are not allowed to climb. He rises from his bed, sound asleep, and makes his way out of the house, and climbs the scaffold. Edith drives into the grounds of the school, just in time to see the little figure that she instantly recognizes, climbing up the dizzy ladders to the topmost scaffold. She clambers after him and reaches him just at the moment when he wakes and totters on the dizzy edge. She sinks down with the child in her arms, afraid to move lest they both fall - and then she looks down, and there is the husband whom she thought neglectful, come in the nick of time to save them both. He brings them down the ladder and tucks them in his car and takes them home.



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And the soul that was Dora meantime has wandered thru the twilight land and at last has met with the old dog Bose. She knows that he will bring her where Totty is. She follows him, and at last she comes out into a place where there are flowers and green trees and soft sunshine - and across the grass Totty comes running to meet her - and they embrace at last in the heavenly fields.

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